

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 IO-10 EB-07

EUR-12 NSCE-00 /091 W

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R 110944Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

SECSTATE WASHDC 9013

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19331

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, TH, CH, RN

SUBJ: THAI TRADE DELEGATION TO PEKING AND PYONGYANG

REF: A. BANGKOK 19143

B. BANGKOK 18804 (NOTAL)

1. DEPUTY COMMERCE MINISTER PRASONG SUKHUM ANNOUNCED
DECEMBER 9 THE NAMES OF THE 10-MAN TRADE MISSION THAT
IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART BANGKOK SOMETIME BETWEEN DECEMBER
14 AND 16 FOR PEKING AND PYONGYANG. PRASONG WILL HEAD
THE TEAM. THE OTHER NINE MEMBERS ARE:

ANAN PANYARACHUN, THAI AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. AND UN,
DEPUTY DELEGATION LEADER

DR. WICHITWONG NA POMPET, MANAGING DIRECTOR, FINANCE
MINISTRY'S GUNNY BAG MILL

OP WASURATANA, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRADE

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DR. WIRAPON BUNYAKITICHARUN, FOREIGN TRADE DEPARTMENT,
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

CHARAI CHUTARATAKUN, UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE, MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE

CHAMLONG TOTONG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WAREHOUSE ORGANI-
ZATION

SOMPONG PHAICHAMPA, CHIEF, ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFOR-
MATION DIVISION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TET BUNNAK, CHIEF, EAST ASIA DIVISION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS

YONGYUT TAKOTKON, SECRETARY TO PRASONG SUKHUM.

2. THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES IN THIS LIST
ARE PRASONG, ANAN, AND TET. THE LAST TWO ARE BILINGUAL
IN ENGLISH; PRASONG ALMOST SO.

A. PRASONG SUKHUM, 44, HAS A B.A. DEGREE IN POLITICAL
SCIENCE FROM DARTMOUTH COLLEGE AND A MASTERS DEGREE IN
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FROM HARVARD. HE HAS HELD SEVERAL
IMPORTANT POSTS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MOST RECENTLY
SERVED AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OFFICE FOR ACCELERATED
RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ARD) WHICH HAS HAD PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY
FOR RURAL ROAD AND WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN NORTHEAST
AND NORTH THAILAND. PRASONG IS A CREATIVE AND HIGHLY
INTELLIGENT PERSON WITH A GREAT AMOUNT OF DRIVE AND AMBITION.
HE IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO HOLD IMPORTANT POSTS IN
FUTURE THAI GOVERNMENTS.

B. AMBASSADOR ANAN PANYARACHUN, 41, SERVES BOTH AS AMBASSADOR
TO THE UNITED STATES AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
UNITED NATIONS. HE IS ONE OF THAILAND'S MOST ARTICULATE
AND INTELLIGENT FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS AND HAS A REPUTATION
FOR CANDOR AND LOGIC. THE "BANGKOK POST" IN ITS LEAD
EDITORIAL ON 9 DECEMBER 1974 PRAISED THE INCLUSION OF
AMBASSADOR ANAN IN THE DELEGATION TO PEKING AND PYONGYANG.
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"THE POST" SAID THAT BECAUSE OF ANAN'S FRIENDSHIP WITH
CHIAO KUAN-HUA, CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER, HIS PRESENCE
IN THE DELEGATION "RAISES THE MISSION OF THE DELEGATION
ABOVE THE LEVEL OF MERE TRADE ... IT MEANS THAT THAILAND
SEEKS MORE THAN BUSINESS CONTACTS." A KEY FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIAL TOLD AN EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER DECEMBER 10
THAT ANAN WAS INCLUDED BECAUSE THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP AT THE
UN KNOWS AND TRUSTS HIM.

C. TET BUNNAK IS AN EXTREMELY BRIGHT AND ARTICULATE THAI FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, WHO BY VIRTUE OF HIS SKILL, MOTIVATION, AND FAMILY PROMINENCE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY RISE TO THE HIGHEST POSITIONS IN THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE HAS BEEN ITS KEY WORKING LEVEL ACTION OFFICER FOR DEALINGS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA EVER SINCE THAILAND BEGAN EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES OF EVENTUAL DEIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. TET HOLDS A PHD FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY, ENGLAND.

3. COMMENT: THE DELEGATION DELAYED LEAVING BANGKOK UNTIL THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (NLA) REPEALED REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (RP) DECREE 53, A 1959 REGULATION WHICH FORBADE TRADE WITH PEKING. THE NLA FINALLY SWEPT RP 53 OFF THE BOOKS DECEMBER 6 (REFTELS). NOW THAT THE RTG HAS LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR TRADE WITH PEKING THE DELEGATION WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN TESTING OUT WHETHER THE POLITICAL CLIMATE BETWEEN CHINA AND THAILAND WILL GROW WARMER.
MASTERS

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